AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #114

BOOK ONE: WATER
CHAPTER FOURTEEN: "The Fortune teller"

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As Broadcast Draft
September 15, 2005

ACT I

EXT. STREAMSIDE - MORNING

The group has made a campsite next to a freshwater stream. Katara notices a disturbance just beneath the surface.

KATARA
Look!

She points, just as a huge, STRANGE FISH, leaps from the water! Sokka takes out his fishing pole.

SOKKA
Oh, he is taunting us. You are so going to be dinner.
(looks at pole)
Hey! Where's the fishing line?

AANG
Oh, I didn't think you would need it, Sokka.

Aang shows what looks like a tangled web of line, with a few small flowers woven into it.

SOKKA
It's all tangled!

AANG
Not tangled -- woven. I made you a necklace, Katara. I thought since you lost your other one...

KATARA
Thanks, Aang. I love it.

She hugs Aang. The fish jumps out of the water -- Sokka chucks his boomerang at it, but it hits the water and sinks.

He turns back, and sees Aang putting the necklace on Katara.

SOKKA
Great Aang, maybe instead of saving the world you can go into the jewelry making business.

AANG
I don't see why I can't do both.

SOKKA
Stop taunting me!

KATARA
So... how do I look?

She poses, showing off the necklace. Aang blushes.

AANG
You mean all of you, or just your neck? I mean, because both look great...

SOKKA
Smoochie smoochie, someone's in looove.

AANG
(stammering)
I... Well...

KATARA
Stop teasing him, Sokka. Aang's just a good friend -- a sweet little guy!

She rubs Aang's head, as if she were ruffling hair. Then she rubs Momo's head the same exact way.

KATARA (cont'd)
Just like Momo!

Aang is secretly crushed that she perceives him this way, but he forces a smile.

AANG
Thanks.

Momo's ears suddenly shoot straight up. He SCREECHES, then scurries up a tree -- Aang follows him. Aang sees something in the distance.

AANG (cont'd)
Someone's being attacked by a platypus bear!

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

A CALM MAN (think Don, the Nickelodeon security guard) is being attacked by a platypus bear. As it roars and swipes at him, he seems unfazed, calmly avoiding its attacks. Aang and Momo fly onto the scene, with Sokka and Katara running and arriving close behind.

CALM MAN
Well hello there. Nice day, isn't it?

AANG
Make noise, he'll run off!

SOKKA
No, play dead, he'll lose interest!

The man barely dodges a ferocious swipe.

CALM MAN
Whoa, close one! (CHUCKLES)

KATARA
Run downhill, then climb a tree!

SOKKA
No, punch him in the bill--

AANG
--and then run in zig-zags!

CALM MAN
No need, it's going to be fine.

The platypus bear takes a swipe at the man, but he ducks just in time to see the bear's paw take a chunk out of a tree. The bear turns and charges the calm man who has fallen on the ground. The kids dive in front of the man to defend him.

AANG
Whoa, there!

The platypus bear rears its head and opens its huge mouth to roar...

PLATYPUS BEAR
(BLOOD CURDLING GROWL)

But right behind the platypus bear, an even bigger mouth opens to roar:

APPA
(MUCH BIGGER GROWL)

The platypus bear's ego immediately deflates, and it goes from bear-mode to duck-mode, turning in fear and waddling away comically.

PLATYPUS BEAR
(WIMPY QUACKING)

Sokka reaches down and picks up a large egg which has been left behind by the platypus bear.

SOKKA
Ooh, lunch...

Sokka reaches out his hand to help the man up.

SOKKA
Lucky for you we came along.

CALM MAN
Thanks, but everything was already under control, not to worry. Aunt Wu predicted I'd have a safe journey.

AANG
Aunt who?

CALM MAN
No, Aunt Wu. She's the fortune teller from my village.
(beat)
Awful nice knowin' your future.

KATARA
Wow, it must be. That explains why you were so calm.

SOKKA
But the fortuneteller was wrong! You didn't have a safe journey -- you were almost killed!

CALM MAN
(still unfazed)
But I wasn't. Alright, have a good one!
(beat)
Oh, and Aunt Wu said if I met any travelers to give them this.

He hands Aang a wrapped parcel, and then goes on his way. Aang starts unwrapping the package.

KATARA
Maybe we should go see Aunt Wu and learn our fortunes. It could be fun.

SOKKA
Oh come on. Fortune-telling is nonsense.

Suddenly, there is a THUNDER CLAP and it begins to rain. Aang finishes opening the package. Inside is an umbrella.

AANG
What do ya know -- an umbrella.

KATARA
That proves it!

SOKKA
No it doesn't. You can't <u>really</u> tell the future...

Katara steps under the umbrella with Aang.

KATARA
(to Sokka, gloating)
I guess you're not <u>really</u> getting wet then.

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY

A small village with a (seemingly!) dormant volcano looming in the background. Still drizzling, Aang and Katara walk beneath the umbrella while Sokka walks beside them, stubborn and soaking wet.

SOKKA
Of course she predicted it was going to rain -- the sky's been gray all day.

KATARA
Just admit you might be wrong, and you can come under the umbrella.

SOKKA
Look, I'm going to predict the future now --
(spooky)
It's going to keep drizzling.
(beat)
See?

Just then, it stops drizzling.

AANG
Not everyone has the gift, Sokka.

EXT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - ESTABLISHING

Up ahead, Aunt Wu's BODYGUARD.

BODYGUARD
Aunt Wu is expecting you.

KATARA
Really?

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - WAITING AREA - DAY

The waiting room is decorated in an "Eastern Mystic" style -- candles, beads, and strange incense with unusually colored plumes of smoke. Meng shows the gang to some pillows on the floor where they can sit and wait.

MENG
My name is Meng, and I'm Aunt Wu's assistant.
(noticing Aang, then suggestively)
Well hello there.

AANG
Hello.

MENG
Can I get you some tea or some of Aunt Wu's special bean curd puffs?

SOKKA
I'll try a curd puff.

She stays focused on Aang and holds up a "just a minute" finger to Sokka.

MENG
Just a second.
(to Aang)
So what's your name?

AANG
Aang.

MENG
That rhymes with Meng! And you've got pretty big ears don't you?

AANG
I guess...

SOKKA
Don't be modest, they're HUGE!

MENG
Well Aang, it's very nice to meet you. Very nice.

AANG
(covering ears)
Likewise.

Meng goes off to fetch tea.

SOKKA
(re: mystic surroundings)
I can't believe we're here in the house of nonsense.

KATARA
Try to keep an open mind, Sokka. There are things in this world that just can't be explained. Wouldn't it be nice to have some insight into your future?

SOKKA
It would be nice to have some bean curd puffs.

Meng returns, carrying a tray with a bowl of puffs and three cups of tea. Just then, a YOUNG WOMAN emerges from the back room, flush with excitement.

YOUNG WOMAN
Oh, Meng! Aunt Wu says I'm going to meet my true love! He's going to give me a rare panda lily.

MENG
That's so romantic. I wonder if my true love will give me a rare flower...

She glances over at Aang as if to suggest it to him -- he smiles, obliviously.

AANG
Good luck with that.

Meng longingly gazes at Aang.

YOUNG WOMAN
(excited sotto to Meng)
Is that the big ear guy who Aunt Wu predicted you'd marry?

Meng nervously stumbles, clumsily spilling the tea and puffs.

MENG
(to Aang)
Enjoy your snack.

Meng nervously runs from the room. Aunt Wu enters. She is a woman in her sixties who wears a long, ornate robe.

AUNT WU
Welcome young travelers. Now, who's next? Don't be shy.

KATARA
I guess that's me.

She gets up, leaving Aang and Sokka sitting alone. Sokka tosses a few puffs in his mouth.

SOKKA
(crunching)
Not bad, not bad.

He tosses a big handful in his mouth.

SOKKA (cont'd)
(EVEN LOUDER CRUNCHING)

As he crunches, a few stray crumbs sprinkle from his mouth into the bowl. Aang looks at him and nods and smiles. (He is thinking, "Yes, you really are disgusting.")

SOKKA (cont'd)
(Mouth full, offering Aang the bowl)
Mmm?

AANG
I'm good on puffs.

SOKKA
(retracting bowl, shrugs)
Mmm.

AANG
So... what do you think they're talking about back there?

SOKKA
Boring stuff, I'm sure. Love, who she's gonna marry, how many babies she's going to have...

AANG
Yeah, dumb stuff like that.

Aang can barely hide his interest.

AANG (cont'd)
Well, I gotta find a bathroom!

He darts out of the room.

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - HALLWAY

Aang tries to eavesdrop on Aunt Wu's session with Katara. He catches a glimpse of Aunt Wu looking at Katara's palm.

AUNT WU (O.S.)
Your palms are so smooth... do you use moisturizer?

KATARA (O.S.)
Actually, I have this special seaweed lotion... I could get you some if you want.

Aang frowns -- this isn't the juicy stuff he wanted to hear.

KATARA (O.S.) (cont'd)
So, do you see anything interesting in my love line?

Aang is suddenly very interested.

AUNT WU (O.S.)
I see a great romance for you... the man you're going to marry.

KATARA (O.S.)
Tell me more!

AUNT WU (O.S.)
I can see that he's a very powerful bender....

Aang jumps for joy, as quietly as he can, using Airbending to cushion his landing.

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - WAITING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Aang re-enters, beaming.

SOKKA
Looks like someone had a pretty good bathroom break.

AANG
(trying to cover)
Yeah, when I was in there--

SOKKA
I don't even want to know.

Aunt Wu and Katara enter from the back room.

AUNT WU
Who's next?

Sokka stands.

SOKKA
Okay, let's get this over with...

AUNT WU
Your future is full of struggle and anguish, most of it self-inflicted.

SOKKA
But you didn't read my palms or anything.

AUNT WU
I don't need to. It's written all over your face.

Indeed, Sokka has an unusually expressive SMIRK.

AUNT WU (cont'd)
(to Aang)
You, then -- come with me.

Aang follows her into the back.

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - BACK ROOM

Aunt Wu leads Aang to a bucket of old animal bones.

AUNT WU
This is the most reliable method of telling your fortune. The bones never lie. Go on. Pick one.

Aang reaches into a basket of bones and picks one out.

AUNT WU (cont'd)
Now throw it on the fire.

She points to a pile of hot coals in a nearby fireplace. Aang carefully tosses the bone in.

AUNT WU (cont'd)
The heat makes cracks in the bones, and I read the bone cracks to tell your destiny...

She waits for the bone to react to the fire. Suddenly a huge crack appears in the bone.

AANG
Wow, that's a big crack.

109 The bone fractures again, this time even more spectacularly. 109

The cracks grow bigger and more numerous. Aunt Wu grows worried.

AUNT WU
I've never seen this before! Oh my.

Now the atmosphere in the room is so intense that the candles begin to flicker. The bone's rattling reaches a deafening crescendo, until... the bone EXPLODES into dust!

END OF ACT

ACT TWO

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - BACK ROOM

They both stare in awe at the fire pit, where the bone just exploded.

AUNT WU
Your destiny... this is incredible... you will be involved in a great battle -- an awesome conflict between the forces of good and evil -- a battle whose outcome will determine the fate of the whole world!

The camera closes in, and the music comes to a dramatic climax as she concludes.

AANG
(unimpressed)
Yeah yeah, I knew that already. But did it say anything about a girl?

AUNT WU
A girl? You want to know about love?

AANG
Yes!

AUNT WU
I'm sorry, but I didn't see anything.

Aunt Wu looks at Aang -- he looks heartbroken. She sympathizes...

AUNT WU (cont'd)
Oh look, I must have missed something.

She picks up a bone fragment and points to the crack.

AUNT WU (cont'd)
Right here -- it says trust your heart, and you will be with the one you love.

Aang is overjoyed.

AANG
Really?! Thank you, Aunt Wu!

He bows excitedly to Aunt Wu.

FADE OUT.

EXT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - LATER

Katara, Sokka, Aang, and Momo exit the salon. Aang is beaming. They are rejoined by Appa, and they talk and walk toward the center of the village.

SOKKA
Well, now you got to see for yourselves that fortune telling is just a big stupid hoax.

KATARA
You're just saying that because you're going to make yourself unhappy your whole life.

SOKKA
That woman is crazy! My life will be calm and happy and JOYFUL.

Sokka kicks a large rock by the side of the road in frustration, clearly hurting himself in the process.

SOKKA (cont'd)
Ow!
(off their looks)
That doesn't prove anything.

KATARA
Well, I liked my predictions.
(mysterious)
Certain things are going to turn out very well.

AANG
(knowing)
They sure are.

KATARA
Why? What did she tell you?

AANG
Some stuff. You'll find out.

They come upon a group of villagers...

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

... gathered around a small elevated platform in the middle of the square. The volcano is visible in the background, and a few clouds drift slowly in the sky. Some villagers point at and discuss the clouds.

KATARA
What's with the sky?

CALM MAN
We're waiting for Aunt Wu to come and read the clouds, to predict the fate of the whole village.

AANG
(pointing)
That cloud kind of looks like a fluffy bunny.

The villagers suddenly seem worried.

CALM MAN
You better hope that's not a bunny! The fluffy bunny cloud forecasts doom and destruction.

SOKKA
Do you even hear yourself?

VILLAGER
(points to volcano)
The cloud reading will tell us if Mt. Makapu will remain dormant for another year, or if it will erupt.

CALM MAN
We used to have a tradition once a year of going up the mountain to check the volcano ourselves. But ever since Aunt Wu moved to the village twenty years ago, we have a tradition of not doing that.

SOKKA
I can't believe you would trust your lives to that crazy old woman's superstition.

KATARA
She's coming.

Aunt Wu arrives to THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE from the villagers and Katara. Meng sidles up to Aang.

MENG
Hey Aang, don't you think that cloud looks like a flower?

AANG
Huh? Sure, I guess.

Then, after a beat, Aang turns to Katara.

AANG (cont'd)
Hey Katara, don't you think that cloud looks like a flower?

Aunt Wu holds her hand up signalling the crowd to shush.

KATARA
(to Aang)
Shhh...

Aunt Wu gazes at the sky for a long beat. Then she looks down at a reference book containing pictures of clouds.

AUNT WU
Bending arrow cloud...
(looks in book)
Good crops this year, nice big harvest.

RURAL FARMER
Darn good news!

AUNT WU
Wavy moon-shape cloud... let's see...
(looks in book)
Gonna be a great year for twins.

TWIN #1/ TWIN #2 (IN UNISON)
(pumping fists simultaneously)
Yes!

AUNT WU
Oh, and a cumulus cloud with a twisty nub coming off the end of it...
(looks in book)
... the village will not be destroyed by the volcano this year!

The crowd REJOICES. Aang leans in to Katara's ear again.

AANG
Since I got you here... uh, there's something I want to tell you...

But Katara can't hear him over the ROAR of the crowd. Nevertheless, Aang carries on.

AANG (cont'd)
I like you... but more than normal--

Unaware of Aang, Katara leaves to catch Aunt Wu as she leaves the platform. Aang looks hurt.

AANG (cont'd)
Never mind.

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - BACK ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Aunt Wu hears a knock at the door. Katara enters.

KATARA
Hi Aunt Wu, sorry to bother you.

AUNT WU
Any time.

KATARA
About this man I'm supposed to marry...
(excited)
Is he going to be handsome? Oh I hope he's tall!

AUNT WU
Ahh -- you want another reading.

KATARA
Yes, please!

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE SQUARE - AFTERNOON

Sokka is walking with Aang and Momo, shooting judgmental glares at all of the villagers.

SOKKA
I can't believe all these saps. Someone really needs to scream some sense at them.

AANG
They seem happy, Sokka.

SOKKA
Not for long -- I'm going to prove Aunt Wu's predictions are nonsense.
(to passing villager)
(MORE)

SOKKA (cont'd)
Hey you, I bet Aunt Wu told you to wear those red shoes, didn't she?

RED SHOE GUY
Yeah, she'd said I'd be wearing red shoes when I met my true love.

SOKKA
(increasingly frustrated)
Uh huh. And how many times have you worn those shoes since you got that fortune?

RED SHOE GUY
Every day.

SOKKA
(about to explode)
Then of course it's going to come true!

RED SHOE GUY
Really, you think so? I'm so excited!

Sokka's face is now beet red. Aang puts a comforting hand on Sokka's shoulder. Momo does the same.

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - BACK ROOM - THAT MOMENT

Aunt Wu is finishing Katara's fortune.

AUNT WU
(tired)
And then you'll have your third great grandchild before quietly passing away in your sleep. Is that enough information for you?

KATARA
Wow! Thanks Aunt Wu.

Katara gets up to leave, but she stops at the door and turns back to Aunt Wu.

KATARA (cont'd)
Oh wait, one more thing... how warmly should I dress tomorrow?

AUNT WU
(bewildered)
You want me to do a reading for that?

Katara smiles and nods.

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Sokka is now yelling at a very dirty man.

SOKKA
I don't care what Aunt Wu told you, you have to take a bath some time!

The dirty villager shrugs, and walks away.

AANG
So Sokka... you know some stuff about ladies, right?

SOKKA
Some stuff?

Sokka smiles, and puts his arm around Aang.

SOKKA (cont'd)
You've come to the right place. What can I do you for?

AANG
Well, there's this girl...

Over Aang's shoulder, Sokka sees Meng watching Aang bashfully, and smiling.

SOKKA
I think I know who you mean.

AANG
You do? And you're okay with it?

SOKKA
Of course I am. And to tell you the truth, I've been picking up a subtle vibe that she likes you too.

Meng is now waving vigorously and smiling at them.

AANG
She does?

SOKKA
Oh yeah. She's crazy about you. All you have to do now is not mess it up.

AANG
Well how do I do that?

SOKKA
The number one mistake nice guys like you make? Being too nice.

AANG
You can be too nice?

SOKKA
Yup. If you want to keep her interested, you have to act aloof -- like you don't really care one way or the other.

AANG
Well, okay...

Just then, Meng gets up the courage to approach Aang.

MENG
Hey, Aang. I was wondering...

AANG
See you later.

He breezes off, leaving her in a flustered daze.

SOKKA
(to himself, proudly)
Wow, that kid is good.

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - BACK ROOM - SUNSET

Aunt Wu is trying to usher Katara out the door.

AUNT WU
...And you'll be fine as long as you've got a scarf. Bye-bye, now.

KATARA
Okay, okay, but one more thing--

AUNT WU
(impatient)
Alright, what is it?

KATARA
Should I eat a mango or a papaya for breakfast tomorrow?

AUNT WU
Papaya!

She slams the door in Katara's face.

KATARA
(whiny)
Oh, I hate papaya.

EXT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - CONTINUOUS

As Katara exits, Aang is there waiting for her, LEANING super-casually against (whatever is funniest).

AANG
Oh, hey Katara -- I didn't see you there.

KATARA
Hey, Aang.

She keeps walking, barely acknowledging him. He looks flustered.

AANG
(calling after her)
That's okay, I'm busy with my own stuff.

She ignores him and keeps going.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - LATER

Aang sees Katara buying something from a fruit merchant.

KATARA
(disgusted)
Papaya, please.

AANG
(ultra-cool)
So... papaya.

KATARA
Ah huh. Would you like some?

AANG
You know me. I don't really care what I eat.

KATARA
Okay, then. See you later.

She walks away, leaving Aang more frustrated than ever.

MOMO
(CHIRRUPS SYMPATHETICALLY)

AANG
Maybe aloof isn't my style.

Just then, he spots the young woman from the fortune salon. Her handsome suitor presents her with...

YOUNG WOMAN
A panda lily!

She is overcome with love...

AANG
Did you see that?

The two lovers embrace passionately. After a moment, Aang POPS UP right between them, spoiling the moment.

AANG (cont'd)
Excuse me, where can a guy find one of those things?

The suitor points behind him... to the volcano.

EXT. MT. MAKAPU VOLCANO -- A LITTLE LATER

Aang and Sokka climb up the side of the volcano.

SOKKA
I can't believe you're dragging me all the way up here for a stupid flower.

AANG
Not just any flower. A panda lily. I've seen it in action, and boy does it work.

SOKKA
Flowers are fine once you're married, but at this early stage, it's critical that you maintain maximum aloofness.

AANG
But my heart is telling me to get this flower, and Aunt Wu said if I trusted my heart, I would be with the one I love.

Sokka stops dead in his tracks.

SOKKA
What?! Don't tell me you believe in that stuff too?

AANG
Well... Aunt Wu hasn't been wrong yet. Why should she be wrong about love?

Just then, Aang spots a panda lily.

AANG (cont'd)
There -- on the rim!

He dashes up to the flower, Sokka in tow. Aang picks the flower, but then he sees something and his expression changes.

AANG (cont'd)
Oh no.

Sokka catches up with him and sees what Aang sees -- the volcano is full of glowing molten lava, and its level is rising (and not so far from the rim).

AANG (cont'd)
Aunt Wu <u>was</u> wrong.

Aang then looks down at the flower sadly, for a beat. He deliberately drops it, and watches it drift down until it hits the lava, and incinerates.

FADE OUT.

<u>END OF ACT TWO</u>

ACT THREE

EXT. MT. MAKAPU VOLCANO - CONTINUOUS

Aang and Sokka stand on the rim looking into the volcano, watching the molten lava slowly rise -- it bubbles and steams, ominously.

SOKKA
Those people all think they're safe -- we've got to warn them!

Aang whips out his glider.

AANG
There's no time to walk -- grab on!

He grabs hold, and they take off.

SOKKA
(SCREAMS)

EXT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - LATER

Aang gets to Katara and seems shy for a beat.

AANG
Hi, Katara.

Katara turns around and sees Aang.

KATARA
Can you believe she won't let me in? And after all the business I've given her.

AANG
But she doesn't even charge.

KATARA
I know, but still...

SOKKA
Well, we have other things to worry about. Aunt Wu was wrong about the volcano.

KATARA
(skeptical)
Sokka, you tried to convince me she was wrong before. It's going to take an awful lot to change my--

Just then, the ground SHAKES and RUMBLES. Katara realizes it's true.

KATARA (cont'd)
Oh no...

The three exchange worried looks.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE SQUARE - LATER

The kids rush into the middle of town where a number of villagers mill about. Sokka tries to get their attention.

SOKKA
Everyone! That volcano is going to blow any second -- Aunt Wu was wrong!

VILLAGER
(dismissive)
Yeah, yeah. We know you don't believe in Aunt Wu, mister science and reason lover.

KATARA
If you won't listen to him, maybe you'll listen to me. I want to believe Aunt Wu and her predictions as much as you do, but my brother and Aang saw the lava with their own eyes!

CALM MAN
Well I heard Aunt Wu's prediction with my own ears!

AANG
Please listen to us! You're all in danger, and we have to get out of here. You can't rely on Aunt Wu's prediction, you have to take fate into your own hands.

Just then, the ground SHAKES and RUMBLES, even louder than before. Sokka points to the volcano which is now smoking.

SOKKA
Look! Can your fortunetelling explain that?

RED SHOE GUY
Can your science explain why it rains?

SOKKA
Yes, yes it can!

But the villagers all ignore him and walk away, going about their own business.

KATARA
They just won't listen to reason.

AANG
But they will listen to Aunt Wu...

SOKKA
I know, that's the problem.

AANG
Well, it's about to become the solution. We're taking fate in our own hands. First, I need to borrow Aunt Wu's cloud reading book.

EXT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - LATER

Katara and Sokka stand as look-outs, while Aang opens a window and climbs in.

INT. AUNT WU'S FORTUNE SALON - BACK ROOM

Aang creeps around quietly, rifling through things, looking for the book.

MOMO
(CHIRRUPS)

AANG
Shh! We don't want anyone to hear us.

Suddenly, he notices that Meng has been standing nearby the whole time.

AANG (cont'd)
(startled)
Oh! I didn't see you there...

MENG
You don't like me, do you?

AANG
Of course I like you--

MENG
But not the way I like you.

A long beat.

AANG
Oh. I guess not.

Meng looks down, a bit sad.

MENG
It's okay. It's just really hard when you like someone... but they don't think of you that way.

AANG
I know what you mean.

MENG
She's beautiful, by the way.

AANG
(caught off guard)
Huh?

MENG
That Water Tribe girl -- I can see why you like her so much. She's sweet, she's a bender, and her hair seems so manageable.

Meng tugs on one of her braids and tries to push it down into place, but it immediately SPROINGS back into position.

AANG
(smiles)
Don't worry. You're going to meet a great guy who's going to completely fall for you, I know it.

MENG
Thanks.

Aang turns to leave.

MENG (cont'd)
Wait. Don't you want this?

She holds out the cloud reading book for Aang to take.

AANG
How did you know?

MENG
I've kind of been stalking you.

Aang takes the book.

AANG
Oh, thanks... I guess.

EXT. SKY - MINUTES LATER

Aang and Katara ride on Appa's back toward a huge cloud. Katara flips through the cloud reading book.

AANG
Clouds are made of water and air. So between the two of us, we ought to be able to bend them into any shape we want.

KATARA
I found it! The symbol for volcanic doom...

She show the symbol to Aang, but before we see it, Appa enters the cloud, obscuring the book.

INT. CLOUD - CONTINUOUS

We see the hazy silhouettes of our group, as they fly through the cloud performing various bending moves. We also see portions of the cloud moving and responding to their bending.

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE SQUARE - SIMULTANEOUS

Sokka ushers Aunt Wu up onto the platform from which she did the previous reading.

SOKKA
Aunt Wu look! Something's happening in the clouds.

AUNT WU
That's very strange, it shouldn't... oh my.

They watch as the cloud transforms into a new shape: a SKULL.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Aang and Sokka address a large group of panicky villagers.

AANG
We can still save the village if we act fast. Sokka has a plan.

SOKKA
Lava is going to flow downhill to this spot. If we can dig a deep enough trench, we can channel all that lava away from the village, to the river.

AANG
If any of you are Earthbenders, come with me.

TWIN #1
I'm an Earthbender!

TWIN #2
I'm not!

SOKKA
Everybody else, grab a shovel.

Sokka holds up a shovel. Suddenly, there is a huge EARTH SHAKING RUMBLE.

SOKKA (cont'd)
Come on, we've got to hurry!

Everyone goes into action.

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS- DAY

Dozens of villagers work diligently to dig a trench around the village, scooping dirt and rocks into various carts. Sokka harnesses a cart to Appa, who easily hauls it away. Sokka then hands a much smaller load to Momo, who is also helping.

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - LATER

A few Earthbenders from the village lift heavy chunks of rock out of the ground, while a few others displace earth creating large crevices. Aang rearranges the rocks into a breaker to stop the flow of the lava.

Suddenly there is a loud BOOM! The sky darkens as a thick plume of ash covers the sun. In the distance, we can see the

red glowing lava begin to flow from the volcano.

SOKKA
Dig faster, dig faster!

The villagers frantically dig faster then Twin #1 plows his way past the shovelers, finishing the trench for them.

AANG
Everyone needs to evacuate! We'll come for you when it's safe.

People drop their shovels and begin to flee.

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - LATER

Katara, Aang, and Sokka stand on one side of the trench, while lava approaches on the other side. It begins pouring into the trench... and flowing down the channel.

EXT. STREAMSIDE - SIMULTANEOUS

(The same place that our gang had their camp in the beginning.) Lava pours through the clearing, and into the stream, generating a huge amount of STEAM. Moments later, the platypus bear comes waddling out of the stream, with the STRANGE FISH in its mouth.

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS - MINUTES LATER

The gang watches as the lava level rises rapidly toward the brim of the trench.

KATARA
It's too much. It's going to overflow!

She and Sokka take off running, but Aang stands his ground. Just as the hot lava SURGES over the edge of the trench, Aang pulls an awesome Airbending move, sending a huge torrent of wind all along the edge, rapidly cooling the lava into rock formations. As the lava wall hardens, the remaining lava flow begins to subside.

Sokka and Katara have just witnessed Aang's awesome move from a dozen yards away.

SOKKA
Man, sometimes you forget what a powerful bender that kid is.

KATARA
Wait... what did you just say?

SOKKA
Nothing. Just that Aang is one powerful bender.

KATARA
I suppose he is.

She looks at Aang, possibly from a different perspective, for the first time. (Though it's unclear what she makes of this.)

EXT. MAKAPU VILLAGE SQUARE - LATER

Everyone of any importance from this episode is gathered. Aang gives Aunt Wu her cloud book.

AANG
By the way, we kind of borrowed your book.

AUNT WU
So you messed with the clouds, did you?
(chuckles)
Very clever.

SOKKA
No offense, but I hope this has taught everyone a lesson about not relying too much on fortune telling.

CALM MAN
But Aunt Wu predicted the village wouldn't be destroyed -- and it wasn't. She was right after all.

SOKKA
I hate you.

Sokka looks like he might cry or have a breakdown. Katara puts a comforting arm around him.

KATARA
It's okay, Sokka. Everything's going to be alright.

She leads him away. Aang turns to Aunt Wu.

AANG
Can I ask you something?

AUNT WU
Of course, honey.

AANG
You didn't really see love in my fortune, did you? You just told me what I wanted to hear.

AUNT WU
I'll tell you a little secret, young Airbender.
(she leans in)
Just as you reshaped those clouds... you have the power to shape your own destiny.

Aang looks over at Katara, dreamily.

KATARA
Goodbye everyone. It was so nice to meet you!
(to Meng)
Take care, Meng.

Meng smiles and waves.

MENG
Take care!

But as Katara turns away, Meng fixes her with a cold, stony gaze.

MENG (cont'd)
Floozie.

Katara stops in her tracks. Did she just hear what she thought she heard? She looks back over her shoulder at Meng, who immediately resumes smiling and waving, sweetly.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW